(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या परिणाम निकले थे;

(ग) क्या उक्त योजनावधि के लिए निर्धारित लक्ष्य प्राप्त कर लिए गए थे;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) इस संबंध में सरकार ने क्या उपचारी उपाय किए हैं?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री तथा खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले के मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला): (क) और (ख) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना (1992—97) के दौरान सरकार ने सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की कोई मध्यावधि समीक्षा नहीं की है। तथापि, पूर्व की सम्पुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली, जिसमें 1775 चिह्नित ब्लाकों को "कवर" किया गया था, का मूल्यांकन योजना आयोग के कार्यक्रम मूल्यांकन संगठन ने किया था। मूल्यांकन से पता चला था कि यह स्कीम सामान्यतया समस्त क्षेत्रों और राज्यों की आबादी के कमजोर वर्गों के लिए लाभकारी थी। इस अध्ययन में स्कीम की कुछ त्रुटियों और बाधाओं का भी उल्लेख किया गया था।

सभी क्षेत्रों में गरीबों पर केन्द्रित लक्षित सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को जून, 1997 से लागू करने से सम्पुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली निरर्थक हो गई थी;

(ग) से (ङ) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किया गया था। तथापि, अतिरिक्त उचित दर दुकाने खोलने, अतिरिक्त राशन कार्ड जारी करने और अतिरिक्त गोदाम क्षमता सृजित करने/किराये पर लेने के लिए राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों द्वारा सम्पुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए लक्ष्यों का प्रस्ताव किया गया था। उस समय राज्य सरकारों से प्राप्त रिपोर्टों के अनुसार सामान्यतया लक्ष्य प्राप्त कर लिए गए थे।

Mass-Movement to Spread Education

*69. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that even after 50 years of Independence, half of India's population is still illiterate, Government have decided to launch a mass-movement to spread education in the country;

(b) whether any comprehensive action-plan has been or is being worked out; if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what literacy targets are proposed to be achieved before the country marches into the 21st century?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Government has made continous efforts to achieve the goal of adult literacy since Independence. Launched in 1988, the National Literacy Mission has sought to import functional literacy to 10 crore adults in the 15—35 years age group through Total Literacy Campaigns which are implemented as a mass movement involving all segments of society. Total Literacy Campaigns have covered 7.25 crore adults in 450 districts so far. According to the National Sample Survey Organisation which has recently released the figures of the 53rd round, the literacy rate in the country at the end of 1997 was 62%. The National Agenda for Government states that Government is committed to eradication of illiteracy. Efforts in this direction are being intensified with a focus on women's literacy and greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

The Government is also firmly committed to the goal of universalisation of elementary education within a given time-frame. Energetic actions have been initiated to achieve this task through a mission mode and through complementarity of actions between the governmental and non-governmental sectors at various levels. This is a continuing exercise with a new thrust.

Expansion of Railway Network

*70. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have formulated any new schemes to expand rail network in backward, hilly, tribal, remote and desert areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise and State-wise;

(c) by when these schemes are likely to be implemented;

(d) the scheme-wise expenditure to be incurred;

(e) whether priority is being given for expansion of rail network in the Adivasi dominated areas of Gujarat; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The Railways have not specifically formulated any such schemes. However, a number of New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Railway Electrification projects, have been taken up which will serve the backward, hilly, tribal, remote and desert areas in the country.

(b) to (d) The details of all these works are available in the Budget document and in the White Paper on Railway Projects placed in Parliament on 28.7.1998.

(e) Prioritization of Railway projects has been done to enable rational distribution of limited resources so that projects required on operational/strategic considerations can be completed early and to avoid very thin spread of resources on all on-going projects.

(f) The Railways do not have details of district on demographic basis. However, the following projects taken up in relatively backward areas of the Gujarat state are likely to serve these districts:—

New Lines

(a) Kapadvanj-Modasa

(b) Godhara-Indore-Devas Maksi

Gauge Conversion

(a) Bhildi-Viramgam

(b) Gandhidham-Palampur

Railway Electrification

Udhna-Jalgaon

Production of Fertilizers

*71. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target for production of fertilizers in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the strategies being formulated by Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) As per the Report of the Working Group on Fertilisers for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-98 to 2001-2002) it has been estimated that 140.27 lakh MT of Nitrogen and 33.33 lakh MT of Phosphate will be produced during the terminal year of the Ninth Plan i.e. 2001-2002.

(b) The fertiliser industry has adopted the following strategy to increase the fertiliser production:—

I. Expansion/Retrofitting/Revamping of the existing fertiliser plants.

II. Overcoming the constraints in the availability of natural gas by setting up naphtha based expansion projects and installing dual fuel/ feedstock facilities in the existing plants and projects under implementation; and

III. Setting up joint venture projects in countries having abundant and cheap raw material resources.

To encourage investment in the fertiliser sector and to reduce the cost of production, the following facilities/ concessions are available to the fertiliser industry.